President Theodore Roosevelt at the New York State Fair on Sept. 7, 1903. (From the OHA collection)

The Great New York State Fair

The Onondaga Historical Association looks back at the week in local history:

173 Years Ago: The first New York State Fair was organized by the New York State Agricultural Society and took place in Syracuse in 1841. For the next few decades, the fair location rotated between several cities until 1890 when land was donated by James Geddes and other prominent Syracusans to the Agricultural Society to give the fair a permanent home in Syracuse. With only a few exceptions during World War I and World War II, the New York State Fair has been held in Syracuse every year since 1890. During that time, the fair has seen many famous visitors, including presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft and Bill Clinton.

— *Daniel Connors of the OHA*